



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC MAN SENTENCED FOR ROLE IN CONSPIRACY TO MANUFACTURE, DISTRIBUTE CRACK COCAINE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for his involvement in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute crack cocaine.

Carl D. Taylor, 25, of Kansas City, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to 10 years and one month in federal prison without parole.

On Nov. 19, 2004, **Taylor** pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture and distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine. Specifically, **Taylor** admitted that he conspired to manufacture and distribute crack cocaine between March 4 and April 12, 2004.

Taylor is the first of three to be sentenced in this case.

On Dec. 3, 2004, co-defendants **Augustus B. Pruitt**, 26, and **Cartez A. Garlington**, 31, both of Kansas City, also pleaded guilty.

Pruitt pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture and distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine, admitting to his role in the conspiracy between March 4 and April 12, 2004.

Garlington pleaded guilty to possessing with intent to distribute crack cocaine on April 7, 2004.

The three co-defendants were originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on April 22, 2004, in Kansas City.

Under federal statutes, Graves explained, **Pruitt** may be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison without parole, up to life in federal prison without parole,

plus a fine up to \$4 million. **Garlington** may be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in federal prison without parole, up to 40 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$2 million.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Kathleen D. Mahoney. It was investigated by the Jackson County, Mo., Drug Task Force.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow